

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02386 241255Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 ACDA-05 SSO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 /073 W

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R 241238Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3794

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2386

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US, XF

SUBJ: INITIAL SYRIAN REACTION TO KHADDAM'S WASHINGTON VISIT

1. HALF DOZEN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS CHARGE HAS SPOKEN WITH OVER PAST TWO DAYS AT SOCIAL EVENTS AND WAITING FOR KHADDAM'S ARRIVAL AT AIRPORT HAVE ALL EXPRESSED PESSIMISM REGARDING HIS TALKS IN WASHINGTON. THEY APPEAR TO BASE THEIR REACTION ON LACK OF ANNOUNCED RESULTS FROM VISIT AND ON BEIRUT PRESS COVERAGE, WHICH HAS BEEN NEGATIVE. HJUNE 22 DAILY STAR FOR EXAMPLE HEADLINED "KHADDAM-KISSINGER TALKS ON ME IN WASHINGTON SAID UNSUCCESSFUL." SYRIAN MEDIA, ON OTHER HAND, GAVE STRAIGHT COVERAGE TO VISIT WITH NO EDITORIAL COMMENT SO FAR.

2. TWO OF THESE OFFICIALS VOICED CONCERN ABOUT HARDENING ISRAELI POSITION, AS SHOWN BY LABOR PARTY MAP, AND ONE CONCLUDED THAT NO HOPE REMAINED REGARDING US REASSESSMENT.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS ADMITTEDLY THIN GROUP ON WHICH TO BASE SAMPLE, BUT UNIFORMITY OF THEIR REACTION SUGGESTS THAT IT MAY BE WIDELY HELD IN SARG.

PELLETREAU

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 02386 241255Z

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